

Madam Speaker, the Bible says in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Corporal Johnson paid the ultimate price for his fellow Marines, his wife and family, and this country. May we, as the House of Representatives, never forget that our freedoms are given by almighty God and secured by our Armed Forces, one soldier at a time.

IN HONOR OF JESSE CLIFTON
ALPHIN, SR., FOR HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesse Clifton Alphin, Sr., for his continued service to his community, county and state.

Jesse Alphin has been my friend for many years, and I am pleased to be able to honor him in recognition of his 90th birthday. Jesse had held many important posts throughout his career, including Rotary Club president, member and chairman of the Harnett County Board of Commissioners, and, notably, the less formal position as a prominent businessman and leader in Harnett County.

A resident of Dunn, North Carolina, Jesse established Alphin Brothers, Inc. in 1947 and has since grown this small family-owned general store into a federally inspected meat manufacturer and food distributor. Alphin Brothers, Inc. provides meat to both small mom-n-pops diners and drive-ins and large distributors and corporate food conglomerates, testimony to its success in the food distribution business. Jesse's integral business leadership in Harnett County has resulted in hundreds of jobs and opportunities for fellow North Carolinians, in addition to quality food and service for over 50 years.

Jesse's strong presence in the business community is matched by his leadership in his church, his community, and as a dedicated family man. His philanthropic endeavors include work with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Campbell University, and other civic projects to foster the local school system. Jesse's untiring commitment to his wife of over 69 years, Allene, and his children make him a man to be admired. It is a true testament of a man's success to look at the success of his family, and I can honestly say his family has sure shown him to be a mighty successful man.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Jesse Clifton Alphin, Sr., a man who truly lived the American dream and is still living it. A great friend to me and to North Carolina, I take the time today to wish Jesse a happy birthday and many more.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 1391, congratulating Israel for its accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD. On May 10, 2010, Israel became the 32nd member of the OECD by unanimous vote of the other members. This is an extraordinary achievement for a small, beleaguered nation that came into existence little more than six decades ago.

Sixty-two years ago, Israelis began the difficult process of creating a country from nothing. For more than a thousand years, the territory that is now Israel had been ruled by a series of far-off empires. It had no infrastructure, no history of self-rule, no major industrial base and very few large enterprises.

After Israel's establishment in 1948, Israelis created their own institutions from scratch. Israel has grown from an impoverished backwater colony to an economic powerhouse in the region. And although it has fewer natural resources than most nations of the world, it has made the most of what it has, investing in knowledge, development, innovation and medicine. Today, Israel is a center of scientific, medical and technological innovation, a leader in agriculture, water purification, alternative energy and public health.

Israel is a flourishing democracy, with a strong free press, a free and independent judiciary and a strong banking system that protects the safety and soundness of its financial institutions. The World Bank ranks Israel among the 30 countries in which it is easiest to do business. It is tied for fourth in ease of getting credit and tied for fifth in protecting investors. Similarly, the World Economic Forum rated Israel fifth of 133 nations on the Forum's legal rights index and 15th in judicial independence and 15th in financial market sophistication.

Israel's founders wanted to create an agricultural Garden of Eden—and since much of its territory consists of desert, its farmers developed techniques for growing crops in arid ground, using very little water. These techniques are now being marketed and used in developing nations across the globe. As part of its acceptance into OECD, Israel has agreed to increase its aid to underdeveloped nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As part of that promise, Israel will be sending hundreds of experts in agriculture, water, and irrigation to impoverished areas, as well as experts in alternative energy, public health, education, and internal security. By sharing its knowledge, Israel will be helping its neighbors and improving relationships with developing countries. Even before OECD acceptance, Israel astounded the world by arriving in Haiti with a high tech field hospital that was able to perform sophisticated procedures and save lives.

With oil-producing nations hostile to it, and very little oil or gas of its own, Israel learned to become energy efficient, using solar power and other alternative fuels. With little land and

few natural resources, Israel positioned itself at the cutting edge of technological innovation. Many of the technological innovations we take for granted, including instant messaging, security firewalls, artificial stents, wireless computer chips, were developed in Israel. In 2010, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 27th out of 133 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index. Israel ranked third in quality of scientific research institutions, fourth in utility patents, seventh in life expectancy, ninth in innovation, 15th in availability of the latest technologies. Israel leads the world in the number of high-technology start-up companies, scientific publications, and research and development spending per capita.

Acceptance in the OECD is a mark of member nations' respect for Israel's economic progress, and it will help Israel attract foreign investors and develop its markets. Membership will enhance Israel's status in the world and will enhance its participation in other international bodies. It is no secret that the Palestinian Authority tried hard to deny Israel membership in the OECD precisely because they were concerned that OECD membership would enhance Israel's reputation in the world and strengthen its ties with other nations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's accession to the OECD is a remarkable achievement. I am pleased to join my colleagues in saluting Israel's success and in expressing appreciation to the OECD members for their unanimous decision to accept Israel as a member. For all of the foregoing reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1391.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 6, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 302. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 302: "yes"—Honoring the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana, extending condolences to their families, and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the disaster site.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

For Tuesday, May 18, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote No. 273 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2288), "no" on rollcall vote No. 274 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4614), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 275 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1327).